

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

\* \* \* \* \*

In The Matter of Charges and )

Case No. 11-24150-1

Complaint Against )

**FILED**

VENKATACHALAM VEERAPPAN, M.D., )

**JAN 03 2010**

Respondent. )

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
By: 

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, composed at the time filing of Charles N. Held, M.D., Chairman, Theodore B. Berndt, M.D., Member, and Valerie J. Clark, Member, having a reasonable basis to believe that Venkatachalam Veerappan, M.D., hereinafter referred to as Respondent, has violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 630, hereby issues its formal Complaint, stating the Investigative Committee's charges and allegations, as follows:

1. Respondent's license is currently in active status (License No. 10181), and has been so licensed since May 28, 2002 by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

2. Patient A was a fifty-six year old (56) female at the time of the incidents in question. Her true identity is not disclosed to protect her privacy, but her identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

3. On October 5, 2004, Patient A suffered a seizure and was admitted to Southern Hills Hospital for diagnosis and treatment. After an MRI, the initial diagnosis was atypical viral encephalitis with a differential diagnosis including low grade glioma, psuedotumor or less likely infarct. Respondent was the neurology consult at the hospital.

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4. Respondent saw Patient A at the hospital and for one follow-up visit in his office. He recommended a follow-up MRI scan for Patient A.

5. A follow-up MRI brain scan was performed on Patient A on January 6, 2005. The radiologist stated that the MRI results were representative of atypical encephalitis versus low grade glioma. Thus, this subsequent MRI was essentially identical with the October 5, 2004 findings. No observable changes in the MRI results indicated a tumor and ruled out encephalitis.

6. Even though the MRI report was faxed and called to the Respondent's office, at no point did the Respondent review and comment to Patient A about the report and the findings of the MRI. Further, Respondent never attempted to contact Patient A of the findings and the necessity for further investigation.

7. Had Respondent compared the two MRI results and/or reviewed the most recent MRI, he would have been able to inform the patient of the true gravity of the diagnosis and prognosis, inevitably fatal, and perhaps achieved a better outcome.

### Count I

8. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

9. Nevada Administrative Code Section 630.040 defines malpractice as the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.

10. Nevada Revised Statute Section 630.301(4) provides that malpractice is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.

11. Respondent failed to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under the same or similar circumstances when he failed and omitted to compare the results of the two MRIs; failed and omitted to review the January 6, 2005 MRI at anytime; and, failed to report the MRI results, and related diagnosis/prognosis of the January 6, 2005 MRI at anytime to Patient A.

12. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in Section 630.352 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

1           **WHEREFORE**, the Investigative Committee prays:

2           1.       That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the  
3 charges herein against him and give him notice that he may file an answer to the Complaint herein  
4 as set forth in Section 630.339 of the Nevada Revised Statutes within twenty (20) days of service  
5 of the Complaint.

6           2.       That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners set a time and place for a  
7 formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS §630.339(3);

8           3.       That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners determine what sanctions it  
9 determines to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical  
10 Practice Act (Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 630) committed by Respondent; and

11          4.       That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners make, issue and serve on  
12 Respondent its findings of facts, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the  
13 sanctions imposed; and

14          5.       That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners take such other and further  
15 action as may be just and proper in these premises.

16          DATED this 30 day of January, 2011.

17                               THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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20          By: 

21                       Bradley O. Van Ry, Esq.  
22                       Deputy General Counsel and Attorney for the Investigative  
23                       Committee  
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## VERIFICATION

1 STATE OF NEVADA )  
2 : ss.  
3 COUNTY OF DOUGLAS )

4 Charles N. Held, M.D., hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury under the laws  
5 of the state of Nevada that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State  
6 Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the foregoing Complaint against the Respondent  
7 herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered  
8 during the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, that he believes the  
9 allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate, and  
10 correct.

11 Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2011.

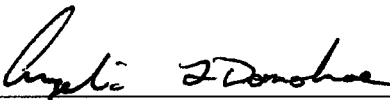
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14 CHARLES N. HELD, M.D.  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2011; I served a file copy of the Complaint, Patient Designation & Fingerprint Information, by mailing via USPS certified return receipt mail to the following:

Venkatachalam Veerappan, M.D.  
2020 Goldring Ave., Ste. 2020  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2011.

  
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Angelia L. Donohoe  
Legal Assistant